Kelkar Committee Recommendations

†345. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount has to be spent on the import of arms from foreign countries in the defence sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that in order the encourage the indigenization of foreign products and to increase the coordination between Armed forces Ministry of Defence and indigenous private industries in a consolidated manner, Government has accepted the recommendations of Kelkar Committee; and

(c) if so, the details of action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As a matter of policy, priority is accordance to sourcing all defence equipment indigenously. Defence items are only imported where the Armed forces require items of a particular technology and within a definite time frame and they cannot be sourced indigenously. Even when a decision has been taken to import a defence equipment, its indigenous construction under Transfer of Technology is also explored.

(b) and (c) A Committee was set up by the Government under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar to, *inter alia,* examine the current procedures and recommend modalities of integration of the User, the Defence Ministry and the Indian Industry, both private and public, in the acquisition process of products required by the Armed Forces 26 of the 40 recommendations in part-I of the report of the committee have been accepted for implementation; 8 recommendations have been accepted with some modifications; and the remaining 6 recommendations are under further examination. The recommendations made in part-II of the report of the Committee are under examination.

Non-inclusion of Bihar and Jharkhand Tableaus in Republic Day Parade

346. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Tableaus of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bihar and Jharkhand were not included in the Republic Day Parade this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria for including tableaus of States in the Republic Day Parade?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The proposals of the states of Bihar and Jharkhand were not shortlisted by the Expert Committee for inclusion in the cultural pageant of Republic Day Parade, 2006.

(c) The selection of Tableaus for inclusion in the Republic Day Parade is done by an Expert Committee appointed for the purpose. The Expert Committee consists of eminent persons from the field of visual arts, painting, sculpture, dance, music etc. The Expert Committee considers all the proposals received from different States/Union Territories/ Departments etc. in its meetings. It takes into account not only the importance of the concept/theme but also the cultural diversity and certain core values of the nation and the progress achieved in various fields. The tableaus are shortlisted based on overall merit and duration of the Republic Day Parade.

Ordnance Factory Rajgir, Bihar

347. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three hundred crores of rupees have been spent on the ordnance factory to be set up in Rajgir in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be ready?